

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 and 17 were canceled. Claims 9-16 and 18-23 are presented for examination.

Claim 19 is objected to because it is purportedly unclear if Applicant intends to claim a method claim or an apparatus claim. Claim 19 depends from method claim 9, but is directed to computer-readable medium which is an apparatus.

Applicants respectfully disagree that claim 19 is unclear and request that the examiner provide authority for such an objection. Nevertheless, Applicants have attempted to clarify that the computer-readable medium recited in claim 9 contains instructions for carrying out the acts of claim 9. Hence, Applicants submit that claim 9, as amended, is clear.

Claims 9,10,12,14,19,20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C, 102(b) as purportedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,870,717 (Wiecha). In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 9 and 20. Claims 9 and 20 as amended indicate that the a third user can add a product to an order created by a first user. A second user then authorizes the cooperative order of the first and third users.

Claim 9 for example recites:

receiving a request from a third client to add a product to the
request to order received from the first client;

Similarly claim 20 recites:

a network connection for receiving from a third client a request
to order said at least one additional product;
a data store for storing said request to order said at least one
additional product;

This limitation is not taught or suggested by Wiecha. Hence, Applicant submits that independent claims 9 and 20 patentably define over the reference. Moreover, inasmuch as claims 10, 12, 14, 19 and 22 depend from claims 9 and 20, Applicants submit that they also patentably define over Wiecha at least for the same as claims 9 and 20.

Claims 12, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C, 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiecha in view of Official Notice.

Applicants submit that claims 12, 22, and 23 depend from independent claims 9 and 20. Hence, without acquiescing to the examiner's Official Notice, Applicants submit that claims 12, 22, and 23 patentably define over Wiecha alone or in combination with official

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notice at least for the reasons set forth above in connection with the rejection of independent claims 9 and 20.

Claims 11,13, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiecha in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,728 (DeBusk et al.).

Applicants submit that claims 11, 13 and 21 depend from independent claims 9 and 20. Hence, Applicants submit that claims 11, 13, and 21 patentably define over Wiecha alone or in combination with DeBusk et al. at least for the reasons set forth above in connection with the rejection of independent claims 9 and 20.

Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiecha in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,970,474 (LeRoy et al.).

Claim 17 was canceled. Regarding claims 15 and 16, Applicants submit that claims 15 and 16 depend from independent claims 9 and 20. Hence, Applicants submit that claims 15 and 16 patentably define over Wiecha alone or in combination with LeRoy at least for the reasons set forth above in connection with the rejection of independent claims 9 and 20.

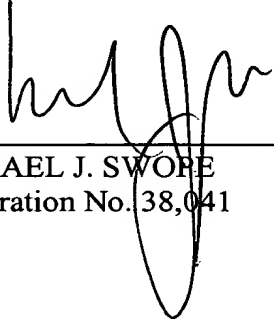
Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiecha in view of LeRoy et al. as applied to claims 15-17 above, and further in view of DeBusk et al.

Applicants submit that claim 18 depends from independent claim 9. Hence, Applicants submit that claim 18 patentably defines over Wiecha alone or in combination with LeRoy et al. and further in view of DeBusk et al. at least for the reasons set forth above in connection with the rejection of independent claim 9.

Applicants submit that claims 9-16 and 18-23 patentably define over the art of record. An early notice of allowability is solicited.

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Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439



MICHAEL J. SWOPE
Registration No. 38,041